

Feb. 16, 2006

Mr. Douglas P. Scott
Director, IEPA
4302 N. Main Street
Rockford, IL 61103

Dear Director Scott,

We, the property owners adjacent to and in close proximity to, a proposed high density residential development request your departments' assistance in determining whether the individual wells will provide safe drinking water and whether the individual septic systems pose any health risks to us or purchasers of these lots.

The development site is located on the west side of Prairie Avenue, ¼ mile north of Rockton Road west of Rockton, Il. The developer proposes to place 112 homes on 85.9 acres. The site total is 123.3 acres which includes green space and roads. The minimum lot size is 27,000 sq. ft. and the average would be about 0.77 acres.

During the 1960's and 70's this proposed site was used to surface apply City of Beloit sewage sludge. According to adjacent land owners, sludge was applied during the winter to the point of run off into the road ditches. Due to the fact that during the '60's and before, the city of Beloit had so much heavy industry, we are concerned that heavy metals such as chromium, cadmium, zinc, etc. were in this sewage sludge. There evidently was some concern over pollution as there are four known test wells on the corners of this property.

Mr. Chuck Corley of your office was contacted on 1-24-06 and we were informed that no permits were required for sludge application until the mid '70's. He indicated that the Township should contact the City of Beloit for sludge analysis for this period. The Township Supervisor did so and Harry Mathos, Operations Supervisor City of Beloit Water Resource Division sent his response letter which is attached. Their records evidently do not go back that far as he has no record of analysis or records that sludge was applied to that land, yet neighbors can testify to that fact.

He is probably correct that **current** manufacturing in the Beloit area is predominantly food manufacturing. At the time of sludge application the area had extensive heavy industry such as:

Fairbanks Morse – Locomotive and large marine engines, industrial scales and pumps.

Beloit Foundry – Cast iron

Beloit Corporation – World's largest paper manufacturing machinery

Yates American – Industrial woodworking machinery

Warner Electric Brake – electric brake manufacture

Besley Wells – industrial tooling.

Wisconsin Knife Works – industrial tooling

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



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A copy of the Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District 's Natural Resource Information Report is attached. The statement in their Comments/concerns section that "this area has excessive sensitivity to aquifer contamination due to the sandy nature of the soil" is of great concern to us.

We request that the IEPA explore this situation to the point that you can assure us that our water supplies are currently safe and if individual septic systems are allowed on the development property that our existing wells will be unaffected.

Cindy Campbell